

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00940 270820Z

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 USIA-06 /020 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9827

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, AORG, BC

SUBJECT: CULTURAL EXCHANGE

1. A RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE APPROACHED ME APRIL 22 TO NOTE THAT A GOB DELEGATION IS PLANNING TO GO TO WASHINGTON IN LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IBRD ON THE SO-CALLED SECOND LIVESTOCK PROJECT. THE MINISTRY NOW EXPECTS THE DELEGATION OF FOUR TO BE LED BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, E.S. MASISI.

2. THE MINAG OFFICIAL SAID MASISI VISITED THE U.S. IN 1970 WHEN HE WAS MINISTER OF STATE (THEN BOTSWANA'S EQUIVALENT OF FOREIGN MINISTER) BUT IS KEEN TO TRAVEL TO VARIOUS AREAS OF THE U.S., PRIMARILY TO STUDY AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN HIS CURRENT CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. MASISI HAD INQUIRED OF HIS SUBORDINATE AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE AN IV TOUR OF SOME 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE IBRD NEGOTIATION.

3. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT TRAVEL COSTS TO AND FROM WASHINGTON WOULD BE PAID FOR BY THE GOB, I NOTED THAT THERE WAS A PROGRAM FOR SHORT-TERM GRANTEES AND SAID I WOULD INQUIRE AS TO POSSIBILITIES THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SLOT FOR MINISTER. THE MINAG OFFICIAL SAID THE MINISTER WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE AIDE.

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4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT COMMENTS REQUESTED AS TO POSSIBILITY OF GRANT FOR MINAG MASISI AND ONE ASSISTANT TO TRAVEL SOME 30 DAYS IN THE US NEXT JULY OR AUGUST. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF PEOPLE IN BOTSWANA EARN THEIR LIVING FROM AGRICULTURE; A SIGNIFICANT PART OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS DEVOTED TO ASSISTING RURAL POOR

AND AGRICULTURE REMAINS A KEY SECTOR IN THIS COUNTRY'S
ECONOMY. MINISTER MASISI IS A FRIENDLY, CONGENIAL AND COM-
PETENT MINISTER. I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT
BE MADE TO FIND FUNDS TO ENABLE US TO OFFER HIM AND ONE
ASSISTANT A 30-DAY IV STAG TOUR.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

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